THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Terminal Service Charges (TSC) are the charges levied by Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) for storage of loaded and empty containers in its terminals and account for about 7% of CONCOR's total earnings. Handling charges are levied for loading/unloading of containers from Railway Wagons and Road trailors, handling of cargo and shifting of containers within the container depot.

(b) Yes, Sir. The company does grant waiver of terminal service charges to its customers depending on the facts of the case, circumstances for accrual of TSC, value of the cargo etc.

(c) Waivers are decided on the basis of merits of individual cases keeping in view the internal guidelines on the subject and within the powers delegated to authorised officers.

Year	No of cases	Total amount of Waiver (Rs. lacs)
1997-98	643	1303.02
1998-99	950	1061.41
1999-2000	1330	274.81*

* Provisional figures.

(e) No, Sir, The amount of TSC waived is minimal in comparison to CONCOR's gross revenue collection (only around 0.3 % in 1999-2000). Waiver is granted only in genuine cases, where it is deemed to be in the interest of CONCOR as a marketing strategy as also to release blocked space in the terminal.

Price of Insuline Injections

* 568. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2.5 million youth in India are suffering from acute diabetes mellitus and many of them require insuline injections daily for survival and most of them belong to the poor section of the society;

(b) whether poor patients these days are unable to get daily dose of insulin due to steep inflation;

(c) why the price of insulin suddenly escalated and whether vomine insulin may not be available any more; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The estimated number of diabetic patients in the country is 25 million. Roughly 10% of this (2.5 million) is youth onset diabetes of the young. Youth onset diabetes require insulin for treatment and survival and most of them belong to the poor section of the society.

(b) and (c) There is some increase in the prices of insulin due to the introduction of newer and purer insulin (Human insulin) being prepared by DNA recombinant technology. Insulin is a scheduled bulk drug under DPCO, 1995. Its prices are fixed in accordance with the DPCO, 1995. Increase in price was due to dependence on imported insulin which has less pro-insulin contents. The increase, however, is mainly due to increase in c.i.f. prices, depreciation of India Rupee and improvement in the quality of Insulin National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has reported that they have no information on likely nonavailability of Bovine insulin in the near future.

(d) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in order to check the price rise and to make available the insulin to poor patients at reasonable prices,called a meeting of all the manufacturers/importers of insulin formulation on 30-7-1999 where the issue relating to prices of insulin based formulation and its supply were discussed. Some leading companies have agreed to supply insulin based formulations directly to Government Hospitals and Institutions for the use of poor patients.

Status of Indo Oman Fertilizer Plant

*569. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the status of present venture of Indo Oman Fertilizer Plant that has failed to take off;

(b) whether Oman Minister has visited India to discuss the proposal for revival;